STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Sunday 25th April 2021
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Weekend COVID Curfew: Day 2

Eerie calm on busy streets

Despite ban, meat outlets in city open on Mahaveer Jayanti; MCC raids 14 shops

The usually busy road in Saraswathipuram deserted this morning. Picture right shows MCC's Abhaya teams raid meat shops that violated Mahaveer Jayanti meat sale ban.

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (RK,RKB, MTY&BCT)- The city wore an eerily calm look for the second day on the Day 2 of the first weekend curfew of 2021 enforced to contain COVID-19.

As the Police allowed essential services between 6 am and 10 am, people thronged supermarkets, grocery stores and vegetable markets in various localities. Today, over 80 check-posts were set up where the Police questioned people and motorists loitering around public spaces without any purpose.

Vehicle registration numbers were noted and motorists were warned they will be fined for needless movement. In a way, the city was smothered to silence by the killer virus for the second day of the weekend today. Not a single bus moved from either City Bus Stand or Sub-Urban Bus Stand. Except for hotels that were limited to takeaways and medical shops, all shops including milk booths were shut.

(See STREETS on page 7)

14-day lockdown?

Cabinet decision tomorrow

Bengaluru, Apr. 25- Amid the rising Coronavirus cases in Karnataka, the State Government wants to impose a complete lockdown on all weekdays, Chief Secretary P. Ravi Kumar confirmed yesterday.

Seeing the good response for weekend curfew, night curfew and semi-lockdown voluntarily by people, Ravi Kumar hinted that more lockdown-like measures will be implemented and added that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's Cabinet is expected to take a call on imposition of lockdown on Monday (tomorrow). "The Karnataka Government wants to do it," the Chief Secretary said.

Even some members of Karnataka Technical Advisory Committee on COVID-19 have asked the State Government to impose stringent restrictions, including lockdown for 14 days to break the chain. Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said that Cabinet members will hold discussions over the imposition of tougher measures during the meeting on Monday. "All our Cabinet colleagues will express their opinions. Finally, the Chief Minister and Cabinet will decide," Dr. Sudhakar said.

COVID takes a toll on OPD services at 'Doddaspatre'

OPD to function only between 9 am and 1 pm

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (RK&SSV)- Coupled with shortage of staff and deployment of the existing staff on COVID-19 treatment duty, the Out Patient Department (OPD) services has become the biggest casualty at K.R. Hospital in city. The OPDs now run only between 9 am and 1 pm.

This State-run Hospital, also known as 'Doddaspatre,' since decades, has been the lifeline of thousands of people from Mysuru and also neighbouring villages and districts. Of the total 1,050 beds, 50 percent has been reserved for Coronavirus patients due to surge in cases.

Accordingly, 500 beds are reserved for COVID patients in Surgical Block (Stone Block) and Medicine Department. The Hospital authorities have to keep 100 beds for nephro-urology, 30 beds for burns cases, 30 beds for dermatology, 30 beds for psychiatry, 50 beds for tele-medicine, 20 beds for surgery and 90 beds for ophthalmology.

(See OPD on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem's article titled **"The buck stops here, or does it ?"**

Turn to Page-12 for the news item titled **"Road caves in near Madikeri; trucks from Mysuru stranded".—Ed**

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Sunday 25th April 2021

Vokkaligara Sangha elections postponed

Bengaluru, Apr. 25 (DM)- Amid the surge in COVID-19 crisis, the Government has postponed the elections to Karnataka Vokkaligara Sangha, which was scheduled to take place on May 16.

The Karnataka High Court (HC), which heard a petition filed by Film Producer Krishnegowda seeking conduct of elections for the State Vokkaligara Sangha, had directed the Government on Mar. 5, 2021 to hold the elections in three months.

Following the HC's directions, the Government appointed an Electoral Officer for the Sangha and ordered for the conduct of elections on May 16.

With the surge in the second wave of the deadly COVID-19 virus, the Electoral Officer had recently written to the Government that it was appropriate to postpone the elections.

Subsequent to the Electoral Officer's letter, the Government filed an interim application to the High Court seeking relaxation in the three-month period deadline. The Court, which agreed to the Government's appeal, permitted for postponement of the election.

Following the Court's ruling, the Government issued an order on Friday postponing the Vokkaligara Sangha elections until further notice.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

The popular cricket website ESPNcricinfo has announced they are taking an embedded bias out of sports reportage: They will stop using the term "batsman," replacing it with "batter." They will also use "Player of the Match" rather than "Man of the Match." As the portal's Editor-in-Chief, Sambit Bal, wrote: "Words are not just about what they literally mean but about what they imply as well... Gender equality as an ideal is an objective that we will struggle for generations to achieve, but gender neutrality in language is easily achievable." This sounds balanced, and more honest than the eyewash campaigns that numerous companies perform in the name of inclusivity, diversity or equality. Here, they've tagged the effort correctly as being only about neutrality.

I'd love to see the word "manpower" become obsolete. Wouldn't "workforce," "labour force" or "staff power" suffice? Another word that always annoys me is "craftsmanship." When I need to use it, I try to phrase the sentence so that I can replace it with "artistry" or something similar, or even the lengthier "well-crafted piece." "Crafting" works fine, but it could be argued that "craftsmanship" centres the artisan, not the object, and this can be meaningful in the context of ethical trade practices. "Craftspersonship" is just ridiculously clunky. I've found "crafting" in a thesaurus, but have never come across it in writing. It doesn't have the gravitas of "craftsmanship," this is true. What does one do?

I write and make art about mermaids. I've not used "merman" even when the illustration suggests the same, because that would mean I don't think "mermaid" is neutral, and I do. I've used "triton" occasionally, but deliberately. Will my preferred word become outdated with time? Maybe. That's okay. Language is riverine: it wears down the old, observes its own current, and resists enforced redirection. It's beautiful, vexing mutability is something to accept, and indeed to appreciate.

— Sharanya Manivannan in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

Trespassers hold wedding at posh mansion

Florida: Friends and family of Shenita Jones and Courtney Wilson were thrilled when they were invited to their 'dream home' to watch them get married. Guests were invited to spend the weekend at the $5.7million (£4million) estate with 7.2 acres, in Florida.

The home wasn't theirs, they hadn't even hired it and the real owner knew nothing about their plan until he showed up on the Saturday morning, when they were meant to tie the knot. A stunned Nathan Finkel called 911 and said there were people trespassing at his property. He said they were 'harassing' him and telling him it was 'God's message' that they should get married at his home. Wilson allegedly posed as a prospective buyer and visited the home multiple times before the ceremony. The nine-bed home was first listed for $7.25million (£5.2million) in 2019, which has now been reduced.

Homesick man tries to mail self

Wales: A pensioner from Cardiff is looking for two Irishmen who helped him escape Australia by mailing him off in a wooden crate. Brian Robson was 19 (now 75) when he decided to go ahead with the 'stupid' plan to get home to Wales in 1965. After 11 months Down Under, he was feeling desperately homesick, but the £40 a month he made working for Victorian Railways wasn't nearly enough to cover a £700 plane ticket.

But after being talked into it for about a week, two Irish friends and colleagues — Paul and John — helped pack him into a box and sent him off as cargo on a Qantas flight from Melbourne to London.

Brian says he needed their help because Paul had access to a typewriter to fill out the paperwork. Brian brought with him pillows, a torch, his suitcase, a book of Beatles songs and two bottles – one for water and the other for urine.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Is infertility or difficulty in conceiving, a common problem?

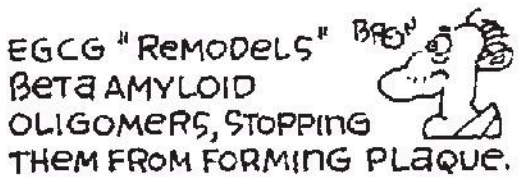
Yes, it is a common problem. About 10% of couples in the conceiving age group have difficulty. Late marriages due to career or personal circumstances, increasing male factor abnormalities are some of the reasons contributing to the increase in infertility.

***Dr. Nivedita Shetty** - Chief of Reproductive Medicine & IVF*

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



Alzheimer's disease contributes greatly to early mortality rates. The epigallocatechingallate (EGCG) found in green tea helps prevent the cause and progression of Alzheimer's by reducing beta-amyloid plaque in the brain. Beta-amyloid is thought to be a major contributor to Alzheimer's disease.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	APR.23	APR.24
Day's Positive Cases	645	536
Total Positive Cases	65,456	65,992
Day's Discharges	602	637
Total Discharges	59,289	59,926
Day's Deaths	4	4
Total Deaths	1,140	1,144
Total Active Cases	5,027	4,922

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Second PU practical exams from Apr. 28

Bengaluru, Apr. 25 (DM)- Ruling out any postponement of second PUC practical exams in the wake of COVID-19 crisis, the Pre-University Education Department has ordered conduct of the practical exams (2020-21) from Apr. 28 to May 18 as scheduled earlier.

In a circular issued to Deputy Directors of the Department in all districts, the Department of Pre-University Education has asked them to ensure that all students are informed about the conduct of the exam at their college of study and that no student is deprived of the exam due to lack of communication. Pointing out that colleges should not demand production of COVID test reports from students attending the practical exams, the circular said that the students must be allowed to the centres only after thermal screening.

REALLY...?

- ***Lizards are the largest groups in the reptile family, with over 6,000 members! They include all reptiles, apart from snakes.***
- ***Rabbits express happiness, bunnies will sometimes jump around and flick their heads and feet. Like deer, a female rabbit is called a "doe" and a male rabbit is called a "buck."***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher: Are you sleeping in my class?
Student: No, uh, a bug flew in my eye and I'm trying to suffocate it !!

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.93
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.95
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.40
1 Euro	= Rs. 90.64

VOICE OF THE READER

Parking problem for 4-wheelers at CFTRI Gate of Railway Station

Sir,

I would like to draw the attention of authorities concerned and people's representatives towards the parking problem for four-wheelers at the CFTRI Gate of City Railway Station.

This Gate is used by a large number of the population of Mysuru and its western neighbourhood areas. But there is no provision of parking four-wheelers nearby this Gate. Every possible place where a car can be parked is marked as "no parking" and a fine of Rs. 500 is charged for parking there.

The area in front of the entrance was recently widened by spending huge amount and there was a hope for motorists that it will provide parking facility for them but it was not.

Therefore I suggest to utilise the available space around the CFTRI Gate of Railway Station for short or minimum time parking may be as paid service so that the public at large, specially those who come to purchase tickets or receive their guests can be benefited and Railways too may earn revenue.

—**Biresh Kumar**
Mysuru
14.4.2021

Stray dog menace

Sir,

There has been an increase of stray dog menace in some areas of Kuvempunagar. In the past two weeks, at least 5 attacks on pedestrians, 3 on children and numerous encounters with vehicles have been recorded by the residents of the area.

Any and all calls to the MCC regarding the same have not been taken seriously. Apart from the attacks, their constant howling at all hours of the night makes it very difficult for the residents to get a good night's sleep.

I request the authorities to take required action to stop this menace.

—**Samyuktha Alwar**
Kuvempunagar P and T Block
14.4.2021

Obituary

Abdulla Shariff

Mysuru, Apr. 25- Abdulla Shariff alias Riyaz (80), son of late M.G. Dastagir and a resident of Bannimantap, passed away yesterday night following heart related problems in Bengaluru.

His wife had pre-deceased him a few years back. He leaves behind his brother Dr. Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Shariff and a host of relatives and friends. Abdulla Shaiff was a social worker and had done innumerable works in the field of education.

Burial took place in Bengaluru this afternoon.

Gangadhar

Gangadhar (61), popularly known as 'Junior PBS' for singing songs in the voice of legendary singer P.B. Srinivas and a resident of Gayathripuram, passed away on Friday in city.

A retired CESC employee, he leaves behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday.

C. Gurupada Devaru

C. Gurupada Devaru (82), retired SJCE Professor and a resident of J.P. Nagar, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, three sons and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage yesterday, according to family sources.

Badri Prasad

Badri Prasad (71), a retired University of Mysore employee and a resident of Deewan's Road, passed away on Apr. 21 in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill on Thursday.

T. Boregowda

T. Boregowda (74), a resident of Naganahalli village in the taluk, passed away yesterday at his residence.

He leaves behind his wife Jayalakshmi, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed this morning, according to family sources.

District Administration takes serious note of teachers turning away from COVID duty

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (SPN&DM)- The District Administration has taken serious note of the tendency of teachers to abstain from COVID-19 duties.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri has written to the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) on Apr. 23 seeking complete details of teachers and other staff of the Department who have abstained from assigned COVID-19 duties.

Pointing out that the Government has announced holidays for classes from first to tenth from Apr. 27 to May 4, the DC said that all teachers have been exempted from attending schools. All teachers, who were earlier deployed for COVID-19 duties, should continue with it until further orders, she said.

DC Rohini Sindhuri

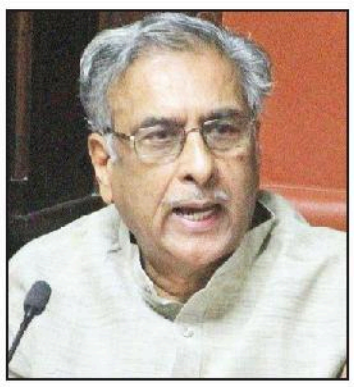
In her letter, the Deputy Commissioner is said to have asked complete details of teachers and staff serving in the district and aged below 55 years, in order to assign them COVID-19 duties in emergency situations if the pandemic continues to cause havoc in the district.

She has further directed the DDPI to ask the BEOs to assign COVID-19 tasks for teachers coming under their respective jurisdiction.

Weekend curfew is inevitable, says Legislative Council Chairman

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (YDS&DM)- Stating that the Government is doing what it can to contain the spread of the second wave of the deadly COVID-19 virus, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said it had become inevitable for the Government to impose weekend curfew as the situation was going out of control.

Speaking to presspersons after taking part in a function at a Kalyana Mantap in Vijayanagar here yesterday, Horatti observed that more people would die of the deadly pandemic if curfew and other stringent measures are not taken.



Basavaraj Horatti

Asserting that lives are more important than livelihood, he said that the Government is taking decisions taking into consideration what is best for the safety and well-being of the people.

Pointing out that he had suggested imposition of weekend curfew at the all-party meeting convened by the Governor recently to discuss COVID-19 control measures, Basavaraj Horatti maintained that several leaders from all parties had supported him.

Now, the Government has imposed weekend curfew and has taken several other measures to stem the spread of the virus.

All religious shrines and tourist spots closed for public during weekends

Mysuru, Apr. 25- Following a Karnataka Government order imposing weekend curfew in the State to combat the spread of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) and Karanji Lake Nature Park in the city have been closed for tourists and other visitors on May 1 and 2. These tourist spots were also shut for tourists on Apr. 24 and 25.

Likewise, entry of tourists to Mysore Palace, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district too has been banned on May 1 and 2. These were also shut on Apr. 24 and 25.

Similarly, Safaris at Bandipur, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve and K. Gudi conducted by the Forest Department have been suspended on May 1 and 2 and tourist entry has been banned. The tourists were barred entry yesterday and today too.

Meanwhile, entry of devotees to Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill, Srikanteshwara Temple at Nanjangud, M.M. Hills Temple in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district, B.R. Hills Temple and Gopalaswamy Hill Temple has been banned on all days till the morning of May 4.

SC Judge Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar passes away

New Delhi, Apr. 25- Sitting Supreme Court Judge, Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar passed away on Saturday, following a prolonged illness. He was 62.

Sources said that he was suffering from prolonged illness and was recently infected with viral pneumonia. He died of cardiac arrest at 10.15 pm on Saturday.

Justice Shantanagoudar, who hailed from Dharwad in North Karnataka, was elevated to the Supreme Court on Feb. 17, 2017. He was to retire on May 4, 2023. After having enrolled as an advocate in 1980, he practised mainly in civil, criminal and Writ matters.

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court in 2003 and as a permanent Judge in 2004. He was appointed as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court in 2016, before his elevation to the Supreme Court a year later.

Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar

He had also served as the Vice-President of Karnataka State Bar Council from 1991 to 1993.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Power disruption on Apr. 26

Due to emergency maintenance works on 11 KV Main feeder line of Kadakola Power Receiving Station, there will be disruption in power supply on Apr. 26 from 10.30 am to 5 pm at Kadakola, K.M. Hundi, Hosamala, Byathahalli, Sindhuvalli, Doddakanya, Chikkahalli, Dadadahalli, B.G. Hundi, Koodanahalli, Kochanahalli, Marase, Maakanahundi, Madaragalli and surrounding areas, according to a CESC press release.

Navodaya entrance exam postponed

The entrance exam for admission to sixth standard (2021-22) at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in the district, which was scheduled to take place on May 16, has been postponed and the next date of the exam will be announced later, according to a press release. For details, call Ph: 0821- 2970040.

Animal adoption

The following individuals/ institutions have adopted the animals of Mysuru Zoo under 'Adoption of Animals' scheme by paying the adoption fee: Tanush Bhaumik, Bengaluru - Salmon-crested Cockatoo (Rs. 5,000), G.L. Rajesh, Bengaluru - Rhesus Macaque (Rs. 5,000), Sowrabha G. Gudadawar, Hassan - Peacock (Rs. 3,500), according to a press release from the Zoo Director.

Library to only lend books

Due to rising COVID-19 cases, the Department of Libraries has limited Public Library services to only book lending from Monday till Friday until May 4. The Libraries will be closed for public on Saturdays and Sundays during this period. Library members can only borrow or return books from 10 am to 5.30 pm. Readers are not allowed to read books in the library, according to a press release.

WATER LEVEL

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Yesterday	:	2260.90	feet
Inflow	:	485	cusecs
Outflow	:	725	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,819.48	feet
Inflow	:	192	cusecs
Outflow	:	100	cusecs

162 houses handed over to Kodagu flood victims

Madikeri, Apr. 25 (PS&BCT)- After a long delay amidst losing hope and living in despair, 2018 flood victims of Kodagu district have finally got houses of their own, built by the State Government. The victims have either completely lost their houses due to floods and landslides or the destruction of houses was to such an extent of beyond repairs.

In 2018 and 2019, unprecedented rains triggered by cloudbursts, floods and landslides brought untold misery to the people of Kodagu and over 30 percent of land in Madikeri and Somwarpet taluks was destroyed in previously unheard of havoc that was unleashed by nature, rendering hundreds of people homeless.

On Friday (Apr. 23), Kodagu District Minister V. Somanna symbolically handed over houses to 162 families. He handed over the keys to the beneficiaries at a simple ceremony. As many as 22 houses were provided in Biligere village and 140 houses in Galibeedu village.

Each house has been built by the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation with pre-cast concrete. Rs. 9.80 lakh has been spent on each house and the areas that have been identified to build houses are certified by Geological Survey of India (GSI) as flood-and-landslide-proof. Each concrete mould house has been designed according to 'M-20 Grade Design' and the built area is 425 square feet.

Modern techniques have been used to build the houses and each house has 2 bedrooms, a hall and a kitchen. The houses are fire and earthquake-resistant and have modern facilities, said Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Project Director Srinivas.

Somanna said 660 houses had been handed over to the flood victims so far in three phases. As many as 35 houses in Karnangeri, 80 houses in Madenadu, 383 houses in Jambur and 162 houses in Biligiri have been handed over to the beneficiaries so far. This adds upto 660 houses. Over 76 houses are under construction at K. Nidugane and they too will be handed over in the next two months, the Minister added. Infosys Foundation is building 200 houses in Jambur and the work is in progress.

"A total of 836 families had lost homes during the natural calamity. Houses have been handed over to 660 beneficiaries so far. Houses that are being built at K. Nidugane village will be handed over in a month," he said.

Virajpet MLA K.G. Bopaiah and Madikeri MLA Appachu Ranjan were present.

Attempt to smuggle sandalwood billets

Ten sandalwood smugglers arrested; Two among them test COVID positive

Kollegal, Apr. 25 (N. Nagendra&KS)- The Mahadeshwara Wildlife Forest officials have arrested 10 persons on charges of chopping sandalwood trees in forest area and trying to smuggle the sandalwood billets. Five more accused have gone absconding and a hunt has been launched to nab them. Out of the 10 accused, two (a couple) have tested positive for COVID-19.

The arrested are 32-year-old Raju, 35-year-old Appoji, 32-year-old Rajappa, 50-year-old Somaiah, 55-year-old Muniyappa, 25-year-old Byramma, 27-year-old Shanthamma, 28-year-old Salamma, 27-year-old Basavaraju and 40-year-old Basavaraju, all from Ramanadoddi village, Hosur taluk, Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

Those absconding are 30-year-old Nagaraju, 25-year-old Pandya, 28-year-old Murugan, 25-year-old Suresh and 30-year-old Narasimha.

Out of the above accused, eight of them had illegally entered the forest area near Sathegala-Jageri, where they had chopped down sandalwood trees, cut them into pieces and were smuggling them in bags via Barachukki beat Kalavadigame Road.

Under the guidance of Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Yedukondalu, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Vanitha, Range Forest Officer (RFO) Praveen Chalavadi and team, who had taken up the operation since a week, saw the sandalwood smugglers, stopped them and on inspecting their belongings, the Forest officials found sandalwood billets and equipment used to chop trees following which they were arrested.

During interrogation, the accused are said to have revealed that they had chopped the sandalwood trees to sell the same to a person in Kolar. Two more smugglers were arrested later.

The interrogation also revealed the involvement of five others, who are absconding. Following the arrest, the Forest officials have recovered 24 kg sandalwood billets, 30 kg Makali Beru, machetes, iron spear and three mobile phones from them.

Forest staff Mahanand Deepak, Krishnappa, Ravikiran and others were present.

Unchain and release Kusha: Maneka Gandhi

Pressure mounts on Forest Department by animal rights activists to free tusker after radio-collaring

Maneka Gandhi

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (Akshay& BCT)- Pressure is mounting on the Karnataka Forest Department to release elephant Kusha who has been recaptured from the wild after it strayed from Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu. Animal rights activist and former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi, who is a sitting MP, has written to People for Animals (PFA) Mysuru to look into the issue and has also highlighted the way Kusha has been chained after being brought out of the Kraal.

Pressure is on the Department to release him back to the forest since he has not harmed any humans. If deemed necessary to be tracked and monitored closely for safety, there have been offers by NGOs to fund a radio satellite collar for him.

Kusha, the 27-year-old male elephant that went missing from Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu district one-and-a-half years ago was put in Kraal at Dubare recently. Kraal is a wooden log enclosure into which elephants are driven to be tamed.

The elephant, in a 'Musth' condition, had ventured into the forests after breaking his heavy chain in search of a mate and had not returned. He had found a mate and was in no mood to return. He was caught in the last week of March and as was separated from his mate using force, Kusha was showing unruly behaviour and this is the reason why he was put into a Kraal, said Department officials.

Ethical questions raised

The forcible capture of elephant Kusha while the animal was with its companion has raised ethical questions and the Forest Department had justified the capture and said that the Department had considered the option of leaving Kusha in the wild but later decided to capture it to avoid possible man-animal conflicts.

Following a campaign from wildlife and animal rights activists, Maneka Gandhi has written to PFA, where she has stated that the elephant Kusha was kept in a Kraal in Dubare and beaten for months for no reason."He was in the Kraal because he had a leg wound that was being treated. A team was sent by the Chief Wildlife Warden and this was found to be untrue. Then, when the Chief Wildlife Warden intervened and ordered his release, he was let out yesterday but with such heavy short chains on his front legs that his legs will break because he cannot move at all," she stated in the letter sent on Apr.24.

"The chains should be removed immediately. The Chief Wildlife Warden is a knowledgeable and compassionate man, but clearly, the officers in the sanctuaries of Karnataka should be retrained, Maneka added and urged the Department to release Kusha back into the wild.

PFA sends vet

Following Maneka's letter that Kusha has been kept in Dubare under poor condition, PFA's Savitha Nagabhushan sent senior veterinarian Dr. Amardeep Singh to ascertain Kusha's condition. The vet has reported back to PFA that the elephant is kept in an open space and no wound or injury was found on the body of the animal. The elephant is healthy and in a good condition, the report said.

A researcher and conservationist stated on condition of anonymity that Kusha is a wild tusker who cannot be denied his true home, the forest. "To alienate him from the wilderness is an act of cruelty. The elephant has not killed any human being in the past. To re-capture him and put him in a Kraal does not make logical sense," she told *Star of Mysore*.

"If the Department is worried about Kusha attacking humans or raiding crops, he can be radio-collared and tracked. One more chance for freedom should be given to Kusha. Seven elephants have been recently radio-collared for tracking purposes in Chamarajanagar Division. Let Kusha be the eighth," she added.

Coorg Wildlife Society Vice-President Bose Madappa said that the Government must consider Kusha's case as a special one and release him back to the woods after radio-collaring.

Kusha kept in Kraal for only two days: DRFO

Tusker Kusha is healthy now and there are no injury marks on his body. We had kept it in Kraal only for two days as mingling with wild herds, Kusha had forgotten commands. We had to train him for him to mingle with the other tamed elephants at Dubare, Deputy Range Forest Officer Ranjan told *SOM*.

Kusha is not chained for the whole day and it is taken with all the elephants every morning to bathe and is later fed. "We then release him along with all elephants to eat grass and leaves in the forest. He returns to the camp in the evening and responds when called for. We have taken all precautions and Kusha is chained only in the night," Kavadi Dinesh said.

Suspecting COVID, relatives shy away from performing last rites

RT-PCR report not given even after 5 days, allege villagers

Malavalli, Apr.25 (SSV)-In a tragic incident, the body of a woman, suspected to have died of COVID-19 pandemic, was left unattended in the portico of the house by her relatives and villagers for many hours at M. Shettahalli in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district here yesterday.

Last rites were performed after local Gram Panchayat member brought this to the notice of Taluk Administrative Officer (TAO).

About the incident: A 55-year-old woman had returned from Bengaluru on Apr. 16 and she got herself vaccinated at a local hospital the next day. On Apr. 18, she developed mild fever for which she got treatment. She also got RT- PCR test done on Apr. 19 but the result was not available even after five days. However, as she experienced shortness of breath yesterday, she was shifted to hospital in ambulance. But, unfortunately she died midway and the ambulance staff kept her body in front of the house and left.

As news spread, her relatives and villagers refused to go near the body suspecting her death due to COVID-19 and the body was left unattended for hours at the portico. Manohar,

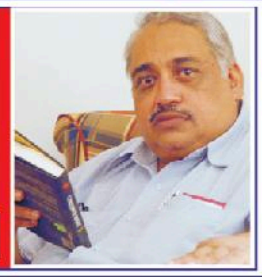
a Gram Panchayat member, observed this and brought it to the notice of TAO.

On the receipt of information, Health Officer Dr. Shivaswamy arranged for her last rites as per protocol. He said the woman had returned from Bengaluru five days ago and was reportedly unwell. Even her RT-PCR test report hadn't come without which it would be very difficult to say whether she died of Corona or other ailments. As a precautionary measure, the village has been sanitised.

Meanwhile, the villagers have slammed Mandya District Administration for their negligence in not giving RT-PCR test results even after five days. Following this incident, the villagers hoped that such incidents do not recur.

Over a cup of evening Tea

By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD



The buck stops here, or does it ?

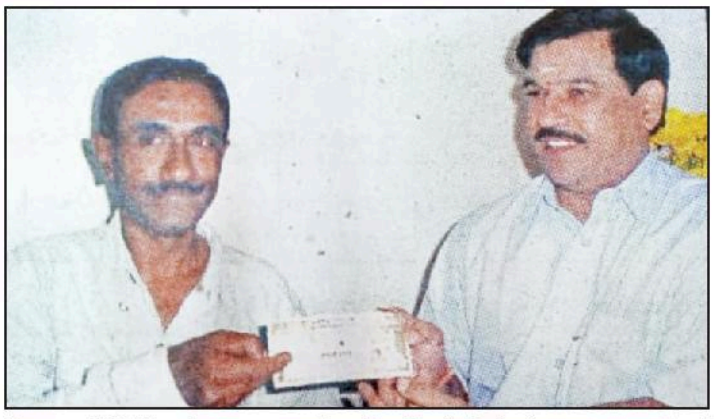
There are times when I think that I have told a story fully and that there is nothing else to talk about it when some most unexpected developments nudge me to go on and tell some more! This is the situation that I am now in because of the overwhelming feedback that I have been receiving in response to my last article about the bank robbery in Mysuru, sixteen years ago.

The first person to call me was KBG himself which is not one bit surprising, because being the man at the top of the editorial ladder, he is the third person after me, to read the final draft of any article that I write. Now if you are wondering who the second person in this hierarchy is, it is my wife as she goes over all my weekly writings with a fine-toothed comb!

KBG called up to say that the story of the bank heist I had written was most interesting and because most readers would have forgotten this sensational event that had been covered extensively in *SOM* and which had jolted Mysureans, it deserved a recap. **And, that means that my promised story about the Murphy Baby has to wait for a week and I hope my readers will bear with me.**

So here I am, after having gone to bed yesterday after a long telephonic chat with my present subject, **Madanraj Urs** only to wake up today morning and find elaborate handwritten notes from him in my mail as the fodder to help me with my writing! Although I had told you how he was implicated in the case only to be absolved later, most people were eager to know how the robbery actually took place at such a highly secured area and how the case, that defied a breakthrough for a full year, was finally solved.

During this intervening period, Madanraj, who found one of the stolen notes, was questioned twice by the CBI, once at the BRBNML guest house and then at his own house and was finally issued a summons to appear before the CBI at Kochi where the missing of the currency notes was detected.



Former MLA Ramdas seen exchanging the 'missing' currency note of Rs. 500 denomination given to him by Madan Devaraj Urs, who found the note, with a note of the same amount. (SOM file photo dated 23.6.2005)

Currency notes stolen from RBI Press, that were recovered, being displayed at the CBI media conference at RBI Officers' Club in Note Mudran Nagar, here yesterday. Accused Sabulal (extreme left), CBI Dy.SP Nandakumar Nair, who addressed the media (third from right), former MLA Ramdas (second from left), CBI Inspectors Babu Mathew, Darwin and D'Cruz are seen. (SOM file photo dated 21.8.2005)

While these interrogation sessions, where five officers fired salvos of rapid-fire questions at him non-stop, were bad enough, he was mortally scared of the fate that awaited him if he went to Kochi. But there was no way out for him and so he booked a bus ticket for the fateful journey, with the then **former MLA S.A. Ramdas,** who was also the President of the BRBNML Employees Union, guiding him about the legal precautions he should take before embarking on his uncertain journey.

But just a day before he was to leave for Kochi the real thief was nabbed and so he was able to get a reprieve from the CBI from appearing before their investigating team there. He says that there was every possibility that he would have been arrested at Kochi for no fault of his, if this breakthrough had not occurred at the last moment!

Now here is the story of what actually happened and the turn of events that followed it. It appears, a CISF security guard of the BRBNML currency printing unit, Sabulal who hailed from Doddekoppal village in K.R. Nagar taluk, somehow managed to make a duplicate key of the currency vault of the printing press. And, armed with this, on a day when it was his turn to guard the vault, he managed to switch off the CCTV cameras and steal fifty lakh rupees in newly printed five-hundred-rupee notes from a consignment that was kept ready there for dispatch to Kochi in Kerala.

His state of preparation was so elaborate and meticulous that he had managed to smuggle into the vault packets filled with wood and metal pieces, identical in weight and size which he cleverly used to replace the packets of the notes he stole!

So, it was only when the dispatched notes were opened at the bank in Kochi that the theft was noticed. All hell broke loose after this and because of its magnitude and implications on the security system of the ultra-high security BRBNML press, the case was handed over to the CBI, the premier investigating agency of the country.

Despite interrogating more than 150 people, the investigating team could not make a breakthrough as their entire suspicion and focus was on two officers and three industrial workers who were shuttling between Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Mysuru in the course of their duty of transporting newly printed currency notes.

It was Ramdas who wrote to the CBI repeatedly to shift their focus a little and interrogate the security personnel too and thankfully his suggestion which was accepted yielded the desired result. It was again Ramdas, who wrote to the **then Finance Minister P. Chidambaram** to issue a directive to all banks across the country to screen all five-hundred-rupee denomination notes passing through them, that led the investigating team to the actual culprit.

So, when an automobile mechanic deposited in his bank account at K.R. Nagar the amount which he had received for the repair of a mini bus, some of the suspect notes were detected and it was discovered that the vehicle belonged to **Sabulal,** who had by then been transferred to BHEL unit at Kengeri in Bengaluru. And, with his arrest the mystery of the missing notes was finally solved!

But had the CBI acted early on the suggestion of Ramdas, the missing notes would have been found a full five months earlier when the thief in a most amazing and rather daring act of charity, donated a sum of six lakh rupees to the tsunami relief fund! A sum of nearly thirty lakh rupees was found hidden in a steel vessel in the kitchen of his village house. **And, most interestingly, although he became a thief later, perhaps out of sheer greed, Sabulal had the distinction as a college student in Mysuru of having represented his NCC unit at a Republic Day Parade at New Delhi before he joined the CISF! And, thankfully for his reputation, because someone is never called a thief until convicted, he died while he was still on trial and was working as an honest auto driver!**

e-mail:
kjnmysore@rediffmail.com

NOTE: This is one of Dr. Javeed Nayeem's most readable columns with a ring of Sherlock Holmes, the super detective, created by the Scottish writer Conan Doyle.

Reading Dr. Javeed's narration of the case, I felt very sorry for Madanraj Urs who unwittingly got caught in the CBI net. That is called fate, *Vidhi*. Let it be.

Here the role of the then former MLA S.A. Ramdas seems the master key for the detection of the case which seemed elusive for a year with the CBI following the wrong scent for too long. Reading Dr. Javeed, I felt sorry for those Officers who were suspected and grilled. It is primarily because of the intervention of Ramdas, at the highest level of Finance Minister, and fortunately the positive response from the Ministry, that finally trapped the real culprit. Otherwise the needle of suspicion would have remained pointing towards the hapless Madanraj Urs and those Officers.

Small wonder, the Finance Ministry took the suggestion of Ramdas seriously and acted on it. In turn, it was the obedient discharge of duty, as directed by the Finance Ministry, by the local Bank (a great surprise!) that finally unravelled the "Gordian Knot".

I guess, Ramdas must be complimented for thinking outside the box and thus helping the authorities to catch the thief. In last Sunday's column Dr. Javeed described the initial role of Madanraj Urs in this case to that of the famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes. Looking back, now I think that honour should go to our present MLA Ramdas.

Dr. Javeed may now pursue the story to tell his readers the trauma those innocent Officers and others (if any) suffered during those days of investigation.

— K.B. Ganapathy,
Sr. Journalist

Eerie calm on busy streets

(Continued from page 1)

In their eagerness to buy meat, fish and chicken on Sunday today in the four-hour window from 6 am to 10 am, people and merchants forgot about Mahaveer Jayanti, where there is a complete ban on meat sale. The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) had notified the ban earlier like they do it every year. But the ban was given a go-by and non-vegetarian stuff was openly sold across the city till the MCC teams began raiding shops for violating the ban.

As soon as the meat, fish and chicken shops were opened at 6 am, people formed long queues in front of the shops to buy their share. Meat and chicken shops in almost all areas including Boti Bazar, Kumbarakoppal, Metagalli, Manchegowdanakoppal, Hebbal, KRS Road, Kesare Mandi, Udayagiri, Vijayanagar and fish outlets at Akashvani Circle, Trinetra Circle, Hebbal Main Road, High Tension Road, Ashoka Road, Fountain Circle, Kesare-Rajendranagar Circle witnessed huge rush.

Huge rush seen at one of the meat shops in K.G. Koppal this morning.

Demand peaks

There was a huge demand for *Gudde Mamsa* in Kumbarakoppal, Metagalli and Manchegowdanakoppal where the animal is slaughtered and sold on-the-spot and the meat is grouped into small heaps (Gudde). Each kilogram was sold at Rs. 600.

People had to note down their names in a notebook kept there and mention the quantity of meat required. Meat was not sold unless the names were written. Interestingly, the minimum quantity meat that was sold was one kilo and beyond. Those who asked for 500 grams were shooed away. At many places where *Gudde Mamsa* was sold, people formed groups and violated social distancing norms. Later they bought onions, chillies, coriander and *pudina* leaves to cook the meat.

Milk outlets too witnessed rapid sale and people stocked up milk, curds and milk products for them to last at least two days.

MCC teams raid shops

As they had got information that meat, chicken and fish were sold across the city despite ban due to Mahaveer Jayanti, MCC Abhaya teams along with teams from Animal Husbandry Department raided 14 shops and seized crates of meat and also live animals.

Raids were conducted at shops in V.V. Mohalla, Paduvarahalli, K.G. Koppal, Udayagiri, New Kantharaj Urs Road and Gokulam. Notably, many shops had finished their brisk sale by the time the raiding teams arrived. MCC Veterinarian Dr. Suresh and Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj said that all the shops that sold meat and fish despite ban have been video-graphed and cases would be booked against owners.

"They will face the law and we will hand over the video evidence to the Police. In all, we have seized seven to eight crates of meat, a couple of goats and sheep and also live animals," they said.

OPD services

(Continued from page 1)

Along with this, they have to reserve beds for post-surgery cases, MICU, post-ICU, dialysis, chemotherapy for cancer patients and for other ailments. To provide treatment to all, the Hospital requires a good number of doctors, nurses and Group-D workers. Now, due to COVID-19 surge, doctors and other staff work in three shifts in 24 hours. Also, some staff have tested positive and are not coming to duty.

Every day, around 300 swab samples are collected and 200 vaccinations are done at K.R. Hospital. Besides, doctors are working in District COVID Hospital and at the Trauma Care Centre. The K.R. Hospital has 200 doctors including 25 Professors, 50 Associate Professors, who work from morning till evening in the OPD.

Doctors opined that they were exhausted working in OPD, in-patient and COVID wards. They said they need to give preference to emergency cases like accidents, burnings and snakebite in OPD. Apart from this, there will be fresh admission of 30-50 cases daily.

In view of shortage of doctors and nurses, coupled with steady inflow of COVID-19 patients, it is inevitable for the Hospital authorities to reduce the OPD timing from 9 am to 1 pm. People with normal illness may take treatment at home instead of coming to Hospital so that the doctors could attend to seriously ill patients. It may be recalled here that last year too, a similar step was taken during the Corona crisis.

Exponentially rising Corona cases rattle Kodagu district

District reports a total of 548 cases with Virajpet taluk recording 227, Somwarpet 194 and Madikeri taluk 127 cases

Madikeri, Apr. 25- The Greenrich Kodagu has been rattled by the sudden and rapid surge of second wave of the COVID-19 virus, with the district reporting as many as 548 positive cases on a single day on Saturday.

Kodagu is witnessing a steady increase in the number of cases for the past few days, which has caused concern among the people and the authorities alike. At present, the district has 1,506 active cases and the Health Department expects a further increase in this number. Nine people have lost their lives to the deadly pandemic in the last one week, thus pushing up the cumulative number of those dead from the disease to 91, since the outbreak last year.

A 71-year-old man from Kunjila village died of the virus at the District COVID-19 Hospital at Madikeri in the wee hours of Saturday. His last rites were conducted at his native village by Hindu activists who wore PPE kits to carry out the job.

With the second wave of the virus causing widespread havoc, the Fire and Emergency Services Department had sanitised and fumigated all public places at Madikeri, including the CMC building, Bus Stand and Market.

As nine members of a single family tested positive for the virus at Guddehosur, the Gram Panchayat sanitised the entire village, including the village bus shelter, shops and other commercial establishments.

As a precautionary and safety measure to stem the rising COVID cases, the district administration has cancelled all fairs and shandies that were scheduled to take place at Suntikoppa, Somwarpet and other places in Kodagu .

Meanwhile, Kedamullur in Virajpet taluk reported 30 fresh positive cases on Saturday following which all the roads connecting Kedamullur from different parts of the district were closed. Also, the cluster containing 34 houses has been declared as a Containment Zone. The residents have been directed not to move out of the village. Health Department officials are taking care of the infected persons.

As at 8 am on Saturday, the district reported a total of 548 cases, with Virajpet taluk recording the highest with 227 cases, followed by Somwarpet taluk with 194 cases and Madikeri taluk with 127 cases. Out of the 548 cases, 526 cases were confirmed through RT-PCR test and the rest 22 by RAT test, according to the district authorities.

So far, Kodagu has cumulatively recorded 8,200 cases, out of which 6,603 have recovered, while 1,506 are still undergoing treatment.

Jain youths feed sweet dish to cows at Pinjrapole Society

Mysuru, Apr. 25- On the occasion of Bhagwan Mahaveer Jayanti today, city's Sri Sthankvasi Jain Yuva Sanghtan members fed the cows housed at Pinjrapole Society at the foot of Chamundi Hill, with 2,620 kgs of 'lapsi' (sweet dish made of whole wheat and jaggery).

Society President Sumati Pagariya, Vice-President Kiran Patwa and Secretary Vinod Khabiya, who spoke on the occasion, appreciated the noble gesture of Sanghtan members towards Pinjrapole and also requested them to help the Society in whatever ways possible in future too.

Sanghtan Past President Rajan Baghmar, President Manohar Sankhala, Joint Secretary Sunil Patwa, Treasurer Kiran Salecha, along with Committee Members Nitesh Bhandari, Dinesh Hingad, Dinesh Pipada, Yeswanth Mutha, Pramod Chopra, Suresh Salecha, Anand Patwa, Mahaveer Dhoka, Jamboo Lodha, Gotam Patwa, Deepak Kanted, Rakesh Mehta, Raj Gugliya, Vishal Gugliya and Akash Bhandari, were present. Project Director Vikas Darla proposed a vote of thanks.

Helping Hands Organisation President Mahaveer Khabiya with members Prakash Gandhi, Suresh Bohra, Pawan Sancheti, Sunil Lunawat and Adesh Lodha were also present.

Giving COVID Dead a DIGNIFIED ADIEU

Demand for bamboo bier spikes as death graph rises

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (RKB&SD)- The number of diagnosed cases of COVID-19 and deaths from infection in Mysuru have been increasing rapidly every day. Over the last 13 months, ever since the pandemic began, a total of 1,144 persons have succumbed to COVID-19 so far.

Amidst reports of unimaginable suffering, it is disturbing to see how the pandemic has taken away the possibility of giving the dear departed ones a proper funeral. Reports of family members unable to attend the last rites of their deceased kin owing to quarantine, fear of getting infected and social distancing protocols have been heart-rending.

Emerging as a silver line amidst dark clouds, here is a story of a man who provides bamboo bier (called *chatta* in Kannada) to carry dead bodies of COVID-19 victims to crematorium. Ever since the outbreak last year, Guruprasad has been diligently preparing and supplying the much-needed bamboo stretchers. Guruprasad, a resident of Medarakeri near Nanjumalige, has been involved in bamboo-cutting and shaping profession. Hailing from a family that has been selling bamboo products from the last 40 years, Guruprasad has supplied nearly 1,200 bamboo biers since Coronavirus outbreak in March last year. For tying a bier, bamboo sticks are used to make strips.

Guruprasad

The bamboo has to be cut into two pieces to approximately seven feet in length and place them horizontally on the ground. Later keeping a space of one-and-a-half-feet between them, the two-and-a-half-feet bamboo strips have to be firmly tied to them leaving equal space so that the dead body stays on the bier firmly. It is ensured that there are no loose ends.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore,* Guruprasad said, "Unfortunately, once again during this second wave, the demand for biers is increasing day-by-day. I have provided nearly 150 bamboo biers this month alone."

The last rites of COVID patients are being conducted only at Vijayanagar crematorium, also known as *Mukthidhama*. Now, on an average ten such cremations are being conducted every day.

After the dead body is placed on bamboo bier, it is brought to crematorium where only a few relatives of the dead wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are allowed to perform rituals. Later, the body is cremated by the crematorium staff as per COVID norms.

"This is not a business for me. I am just helping those who are in need. For the first time in 40 years, I am seeing so much demand for this article, which is used only when someone is dead. I feel very sorry that I am witnessing considerable demand nowadays. Rich or poor, everybody needs to learn a lesson from this pandemic — Wear masks and maintain social distancing without fail," Guruprasad said.

1,221 cremations in one year at Mukthidhama

Mysuru City Corporation's Births and Deaths Statistical Officer Anil Christy, who has been working as Nodal Officer for handling COVID-19 cases at *Mukthidhama,* is all praise for Guruprasad.

Anil Christy

"Over the last one year, Guruprasad has been supplying bamboo biers to the MCC. Most importantly, he is ready to provide his services even in the middle of the night. We should be thankful to him," he said.

At *Mukthidhama,* there are two electric and one gas crematorium. It would take nearly 45 minutes to burn a body. "Unfortunately, the whole country is witnessing the second wave now and the number of deaths is increasing. Over the last one year, I have cremated nearly 1,221 bodies at *Mukthidhama.* This is a grim situation but I am thankful to God for providing the opportunity to serve those who are dead in a meaningful manner," he said.

Apart from Guruprasad, other bamboo workers are also involved in preparing bamboo stretchers at Medarakeri near Nanjumalige Circle.

Minister launches distribution of two-wheelers to beneficiaries

D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman Raghu Kautilya seen symbolically handing over the key of a two-wheeler to a beneficiary in front of D. Devaraj Urs Bhavan in Bengaluru on Thursday as others look on.

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (PM&DM)- Minister for Backward Classes Welfare and Muzrai, Kota Srinivas Poojari on Thursday launched distribution of two-wheelers to beneficiaries of D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation through virtual mode from a Hospital in Udupi, where he is undergoing treatment for COVID-19.

After the launch, D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman Raghu Kautilya symbolically handed over the keys to some of the beneficiaries at a simple programme organised in front of Bengaluru's D. Devaraj Urs Bhavan on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghu Kautilya said that the two-wheeler scheme has been launched in order to help the jobless youths from backward classes to find employment during this critical time of COVID-19 crisis.

Pointing out that two-wheelers will help the youth in taking up parcel and food delivery services, he appealed the beneficiaries to make best use of the scheme for their livelihood.

Asserting that the Corporation has evolved plans for introducing schemes that will help the people during COVID-19 crisis, he said that more than thousand youths will benefit from the two-wheeler scheme. The youths must make best use of this opportunity for building their lives and livelihood, he added.

Corporation's Managing Director K.N. Vijayaprakash, General Manager Kotrappa, officials Nagaraju, Sujatha and others were present.

Cattle fair held amidst COVID pandemic at Chunchanakatte

Chunchanakatte, Apr. 25 (Madhu&KS)- Though the Government is taking all efforts to prevent the second wave of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic from spreading by issuing preventive guidelines such as imposing night curfew, weekend curfew, banning all types of fairs (Jathras), limiting guests for weddings and other functions etc., a cattle fair was held on Wednesday morning at Chunchanakatte.

Thousands of people participated in the cattle fair, during which all safety guidelines of the Government was violated and social distancing had gone for a toss. The people, who had come to the fair, were not afraid of the pandemic and thronged the venue to conduct business and to purchase cattle, thus making the cattle fair venue a COVID hot spot.

Even the authorities concerned displayed their negligent attitude and did not bother to take steps to stop the fair. As on March 21, Saligrama and K.R. Nagar taluks reported a total of 124 COVID-19 positive cases and looking at the number of people participated in the cattle fair, the number of positive cases is sure to shoot up.

It was only after a few members of the public informed about the crowding at the cattle fair to the Police, the Cops arrived at the venue and sent the participants of the cattle fair back.

MUDA asks owners to keep vacant sites clean

Warns of imposing cleaning charges on defaulters

Mysuru, Apr. 25- Following a number of public complaints that bushes, shrubs and weeds that have overgrown in vacant sites are a blot on city's beauty and also poses a threat to other residents in the vicinity, the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) has decided to impose cleaning charges on the owners of such sites just as the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has done by collecting cleaning cess.

In a press release, MUDA said that Private Developers or Housing Co-operative Societies, which furnish self-authenticated letters to MUDA twice a year (Jan-Feb and September) on having kept their developed plots/layouts clean, will be exempted from cleaning charges during Revenue Tax computation.

Likewise, owners of the vacant sites in MUDA developed layouts will be exempted from cleaning charges in Revenue Tax payout, if they furnish self-authentication letter, supported by a photograph of the cleaned vacant site.

It has come to MUDA's notice that several vested interests are creating unnecessary confusion in the minds of vacant site owners about imposition of cleaning charges and as well as its computation. As such, MUDA has sought to bring this measure to the notice of the public.

The MUDA will carry out a survey of cleaned sites, the owners of which have submitted a letter in September last, during which the genuineness of the letters will be checked. Site owners who have defaulted on cleaning will be treated as defaulters and cleaning charges will be added to their Revenue Tax for the next year, the release said.

Woman, daughter go missing from city

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (KS)- A woman and her daughter have been reported missing since Apr. 17 from city.

The missing persons are 27-year-old Sangeetha, wife of Naveen and her daughter seven-year-old Navyashree. According to the complaint lodged by Sangeetha's mother Girijamma at K.R. Police Station, she along with her daughter Sangeetha and granddaughter Navyashree had come to a hospital in K.R. Police limits.

At about 1.45 pm, she (Girijamma) went to a medical store after leaving her daughter and granddaughter in front of a shop right opposite to the medial store and when she returned after purchasing medicines, she found Sangeetha and Navyashree missing from the spot.

Sangeetha

Navyashree

Sangeetha is 5 ft. tall, oval faced, wheatish complexioned, normal built, speaks Kannada and was wearing a blue coloured chudidar at the time of going missing.

Navyashree is 3.5 ft. tall, oval faced, normal built, wheatish complexioned and was wearing a white frock while going missing.

Those having any information about the missing woman and her daughter may contact K.R. Police Station on Ph: 0821-2418319/519 or call Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339, according to a press release from K.R. Police Station, Mysuru.

Fake Remdesivir injection racket

CCB Cops intensify investigation

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (SBD&KS)- The City Crime Branch (CCB) Police, who are investigating the sale of fake Remdesivir injections after they busted the racket by arresting three persons, have intensified their investigation.

CCB Police had arrested Girish, a staff nurse at a private hospital in city after raiding his house where he used to manufacture the fake injections and have also arrested Prashanth and Manjunath, both medical representatives, who used to help Girish in selling the fake injections.

All the three were remanded to judicial custody and the Police after taking permission from the Magistrate, have taken the three into their custody for further investigation. Two more persons — Shivappa, a security guard and his wife Mangala, a housekeeper at a private COVID Care Centre in city — have been taken into custody for questioning. Shivappa and Mangala have been accused of collecting empty Remdesivir injection vials and giving it to Girish, who used to refill the empty vials with fake medicine.

During the raid on Girish's house on Apr. 19, the CCB Cops had seized empty vials, vials filled with fake medicine, rubber corks, equipment used to refill the vials and seal it and Rs. 2.82 lakh cash.

WORD OF THE DAY

Forfend

Pronunciation: for-FEND.
Meaning: Forbid; to ward off : prevent; protect, preserve.
Origin: When forfend was first used in the 14th century, it meant "to forbid." The term is still used with this meaning in phrases like "heaven forfend" or "God forfend," but it bears an antiquated patina communicated in our dictionary with an "archaic" label. Other uses of the word are current, though somewhat uncommon. Forfend comes from Middle English forfenden, from for- (meaning "so as to involve prohibition, exclusion, omission, failure, neglect, or refusal") and fenden, a variant of defenden, meaning "to defend."
Example: "All too often, the selfie is looked down upon with condescension, viewed as the narcissist's calling card, treated with scorn and disdain. But why? Heaven forfend we show evidence of loving ourselves." — Rachel Thompson, Mashable, 24 Dec. 2020

THE ODD WORD

Fain

Happy; inclined; pleased.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Fit as a fiddle

Meaning: The phrase "fit as a fiddle" is a simile that means being in good health; something that's in sound condition.
Origin: The origin of this phrase is not clear. However, it may have something to do with the maintenance involved in keeping a musical instrument in fit condition. Indeed, instruments like guitars, flutes, violins and others require a level of care to keep them in good shape and functioning properly. For example, let's look at a fiddle. These typically refer to stringed instruments, such as a violin. In order to keep a violin in a working state, its strings must be replaced if they break, tiny pegs need to be kept tightened, and it should be cleaned every now and then to prevent dust buildup. This sort of maintenance keeps the violin healthy or "fit," so to speak. Thus, with this phrase, a person's health is being compared to a well-maintained fiddle. But how old is this saying? It goes back to at least the early 17th century. For example it is written in a book titled English-men for my Money, by Haughton William, 1616: "This is excellent ynfayth, as fit as a fiddle."

QUOTE BOX

Friends are like fiddle strings; they must not be screwed too tight.

—Henry George Bohn

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

C C C

Answer: Middle C.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

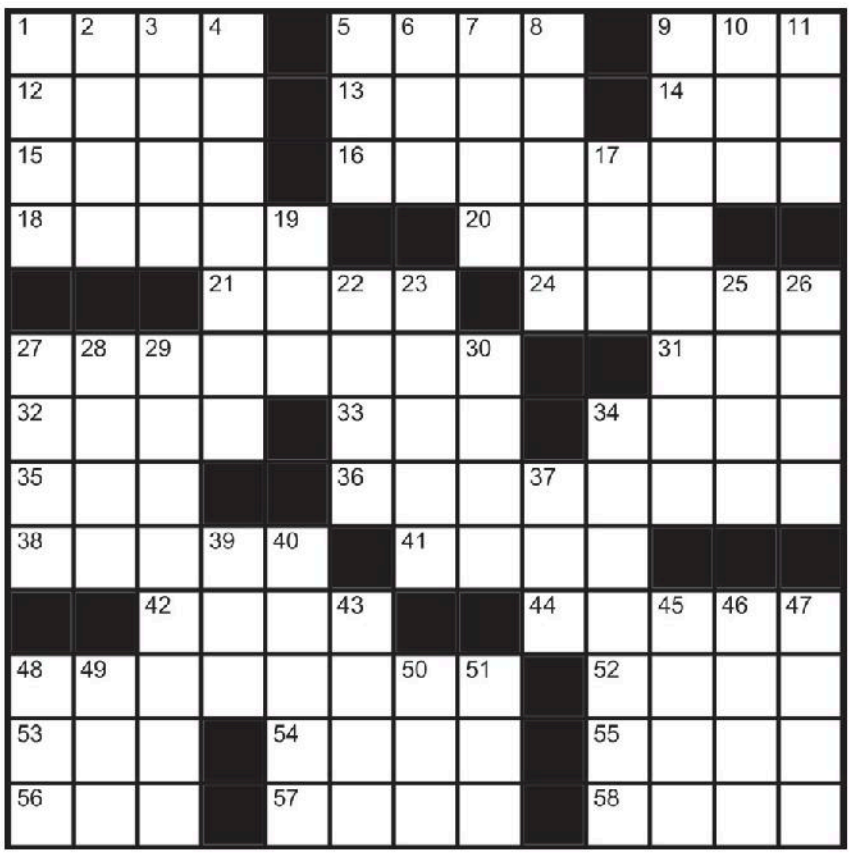
1 Platter
5 Fifty per cent?
9 Panaji locale
12 UP town
13 Mountain range
14 Bull periods
15 "Gave" turn to a star?
16 Recollections
18 Love - Italian style
20 Salicyclic for one
21 Sister of Osiris
24 Australian bear
27 Scorn
31 Naught
32 Quarry
33 Something to eat - "ape" anagram?
34 Con
35 RK Studio's 1948 offering?
36 Privately (2,6)
38 Roofing tile
41 Soothing ointment ___ Balsam
42 Singer Amos
44 Home for an Inuk
48 Can be aped
52 Au for the chemist
53 Brother of Kush
54 Plant the lawn
55 1970 Kinks hit
56 Large, abbr.
57 School test
58 Greek letters - "seat" changed?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

B	A	R	B	■	P	E	E	K	■	B	A	N
O	R	E	O	■	A	L	B	A	■	R	N	A
O	V	A	L	■	N	E	B	U	L	O	U	S
B	O	D	E	G	A	■	E	R	I	K	■	■
■	■	■	R	A	C	E	D	■	R	E	E	F
O	P	P	O	S	E	D	■	K	E	N	D	O
I	L	O	■	P	A	G	A	N	■	I	D	A
S	U	R	F	S	■	E	T	E	R	N	A	L
E	S	T	E	■	I	S	T	L	E	■	■	■
■	■	R	A	T	S	■	U	T	M	O	S	T
B	I	A	T	H	L	O	N	■	O	S	L	O
P	L	Y	■	O	E	N	E	■	T	S	A	R
S	L	S	■	U	S	E	S	■	E	A	T	S

DOWN

1 Hindu deity
2 Thing or article
3 Starch used in puddings
4 Donations to the needy
5 Sound like a bee?
6 Have being
7 Tibetan monk
8 Crowd of sheep
9 Counsel
10 Unseal - poetically speaking!
11 Beast of burden from the Biblical times?
17 SA river ___ Grande
19 Suffix denoting place or ownership ?
22 Zulu warrior tribe
23 Used up
25 Teller of falsehoods
26 Russian river
27 Cert. Public. Accts.
28 By mouth
29 Pessimistic
30 Mexican pancake
34 Be an illegal importer?
37 Ex-India batsman Mushtaq __
39 Small child
40 Delete or rub out
43 Mountain goat
45 Robbery proceeds
46 Clay water jar
47 Rooms within harems
48 Out of health, unwell
49 Assault usually with intent to rob
50 Another word for 'meadow'
51 Genre you might hear at a nightclub



SUDOKO

2								5
	3						1	
		5	1	2	4	3		
8			4		2			9
				7				
4			6		9			1
		4	8	6	3	2		
	2						8	
9								3

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	1	3	9	2	7	4	5
7	2	5	4	1	6	9	8	3
9	3	4	8	7	5	1	2	6
1	9	7	2	6	3	8	5	4
4	5	2	1	8	7	6	3	9
3	8	6	5	4	9	2	7	1
5	7	8	9	3	1	4	6	2
2	4	9	6	5	8	3	1	7
6	1	3	7	2	4	5	9	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

HPHMNXRSN DFRAY ZC NRB IMH GRR LIMHCBU NRB

IMH YR RLLBWZHS ZF XHZFO LIMHCBU GTIG NRB

IMH YBMH GR YGBQXUH RPHM YRQHGTZFO.

TODAY'S CLUE: R EQUALS O

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: If you've broken the eggs, you should make the omelette.

BJP launches COVID-19 Helplines

Mysuru, Apr. 25 - Amid rising COVID-19 cases, the District BJP Unit has launched seven COVID-19 Helplines to help the people during emergencies and other critical situations. The persons in-charge of the Helplines along with their contact numbers are as follows:

General: Shankarappa (94493-23914) and Neha Naina (90603-81001).

Hospital and Ambulance: Dr. Chidananda (88840-94940) and Dr. Anand (94486-02177).

Ventilator and Remdesivir: Dr. Mallikarjun (90089-44417) and Dr. Raviraj (90082-64009).

Vaccination: Pratap G. Devanur (99606-227522) and Karohatti Basavaraju (99644-45858).

Ayushman Bharath Health Card: Vinayak Prasad (98868-20239) and Papanna (94488-00767).

Campaign: Gurur Shivakumar (95381-73047) and Bharath (95385-86060).

Last rites: Mohan (99012-48335) and Hinkal Papanna (98455-77143)

City BJP COVID-19 Helplines

The City BJP Unit too has set up COVID-19 Helplines for the benefit of public. The members of the public can call the following party leaders in case of any help:

S. Vaneesh Kumar (98446-34559) and Javarappa (99019-58380).

Hospital-related issues: Dr. Anil Thomas (93431-33366), Mukund Peshwa (94485-50367) and Prashanth (98452-04678).

Remdesivir : Mukund Peshwa (94485-50367) and Dr. Ravindranath (93419-33405).

Vaccination: Dr. Anil Thomas (93431-33366) and Shivaprakash (99005-75886).

Oxygen cylinder: Khandesh Kashi (98451-15555) and S. Nandakumar (87629-03676).

Ambulance services: S.E.Girish (98446-13407) and Jayashankar (98802-30764).

Last rites: K.J. Ramesh (93435-30348) and H. Jayaram (99865-79431).

Animation Film on Suttur Mutt bags award

Mysuru, Apr. 25 - 'The Heritage of Sri Suttur Mutt,' an animation film in English, produced by city's JSS Mahavidyapeetha, has bagged the 'Best Religious Film' award at the White Unicorn International Film Festival held in January this year.

Also, Film Director Abdul Karim has bagged the Best Director award. The film was conceptualised by the city-based Shoonyeka Solutions Animations. Kolkata-based Film Partners Studios (FPS) has partnered the conduct of White Unicorn International Film Festival for years. About 800 films from different countries, languages and forms, had taken part in this year's International Film fest and more than 100 of them had entered the final rounds.

'The Heritage of Sri Suttur Mutt' animation film features the centuries-old history of the famed Mutt, contribution of Seers, including Adijagadguru Sri Shivarathri Shivayogi Swamiji and Dr. Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Swamiji, over the years and the Mutt's yeoman services to society in various fields, according to a press release from JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary.

Public advised on vector-borne diseases control measures

Mysuru, Apr. 25- With the city and district reporting an increasing number of vector-borne diseases such as fever, dengue, chikungunya and malaria in the past few days, the District Vector-borne Diseases Control Officer Dr. S. Chidambara has appealed the public to ensure that water does not get stagnated near their houses or buildings.

In a press release, Dr. Chidambara said there is every chance that vector-borne diseases may spread further due to multiplication of mosquitoes, which breed from stagnant water. Noting that Aedes species of mosquitoes are the main spreaders of the deadly epidemic, he said that the co-operation of people is must for checking the breed of mosquitoes.

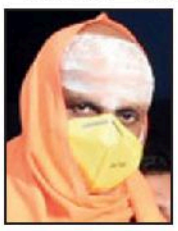
Dr. S. Chidambara

Pointing out that water collected in cement tanks, open barrels, drums, old tyres, coconut shells etc., are the breeding ground for mosquitoes, he said that water should not be allowed to stagnate at such points and elsewhere. He further said that people should take precautionary and safety measures such as use of mosquito screens and mosquito repellents.

Advising the people not to neglect fever and other symptoms, Dr. Chidambara said that citizens should visit a nearby Hospital in case of symptoms. Maintaining that the Health Department has formed a Rapid Task Force to check the breeding of mosquitoes and larvae at the source itself, he said that the members of the Task Force are visiting homes. He sought full co-operation of the public in preventing the outbreak of vector-borne diseases.

Treat mask as part of your body: Suttur Swamiji

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (SSV)- Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji has opined that mask must be considered as part of our body till Corona crisis comes under control. "My appeal to citizens is to always wear face mask, maintain social distance, take vaccination and stay inside homes as much as possible in the interest of everyone," he said in a press release.



The Seer said the pandemic was spreading everywhere and has become uncontrollable. Deaths were happening owing to shortage of medicine and oxygen. So, it was better to be self-disciplined by strictly following the safety protocols.

People have to be very careful now than before. It was not the time to indulge in blame game. Need of the hour was to fight against the pandemic by taking vaccination and also convince others to get the jab, he noted.

Everyone must wear mask compulsorily by treating it as a portion of our body. Hands must be sanitised regularly to kill the virus, the Seer said and advised people to spend quality time with their family members.

Continuing, he said carelessness should not cause irreparable damage to families. In the interest of family members everyone must be extra vigilant. Every citizen must discharge his duty as Corona warrior and help society overcome this crisis.

"Do not allow pandemic to go scot-free. Whenever you have time, involve in puja, meditation and prayer for the welfare of Universe," the Swamiji appealed.

Mandya DC inspects COVID Care Centres

Mandya, Apr. 25 (MR&DM)- Mandya Deputy Commissioner S. Aswathi visited COVID Care Centres (CCCs) and Hospitals at Pandavapura, K.R. Pet and Nagamangala taluks on Thursday and reviewed the treatment facilities available there.

The DC visited some of the COVID-19 wards and vaccination rooms at hospitals and interacted with the patients. She enquired about the food, medical treatment and other facilities available there. Some patients alleged that doctors were scared to visit the COVID ward as they feared about catching the virus. She directed the doctors and the officials to take proper care of the infected patients and also infuse moral strength in them.

During her inspection at Pandavapura town, the DC observed that most of the hotels were full with no physical distancing and were not following COVID-19 SOPs. Upset over the negligence of the hotel owners and the people towards following the guidelines, Aswathi pulled up Pandavapura TMC Chief Officer (CO) Manjunath and questioned him whether he was aware of the fresh set of guidelines issued by the Government two days ago.

Pandavapura Assistant Commissioner B.C. Shivanandamurthy, Tahsildar Pramod L. Patil, Taluk Health Officer Dr. C.A. Arvind, Pandavapura Hospital Medical Officer Dr. Kumar, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer R.P. Mahesh and other officials were present during the DC's inspection.

Road caves in near Madikeri; trucks from Mysuru stranded

The road that has caved in between Second Monnangeri and Jodupala on National Highway 275.

Goods trucks that have been parked in Madikeri.

Kushalnagar, Apr. 25 (Akshay & BCT)- Heavy vehicle (goods vehicles) movement on the Mysuru-Bantwal National Highway (National Highway 275) on the Madikeri-Sullia stretch has been banned after soil caved in on a road linking Jodupala and Second Monnangeri that had witnessed massive landslides in 2018 and 2019. As such, hundreds of goods trucks that have left Mysuru are stranded in Madikeri in the surroundings of General K.S. Thimayya Circle.

Heavy rain that lashed across the region for the last four days resulted in the loosening of the soil. The road was repaired recently and now a portion of it has collapsed. The weatherman has forecast more rains in the next two to three days and as such the Kodagu District Administration has banned the movement of heavy goods vehicles.

Local villagers say that the Mysuru-Mangaluru stretch would have to be closed for months together like in 2018 and 2019 if the road further caves in. Even movement of light vehicles would be difficult if the situation continued, they reasoned.

Meanwhile, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has put up barricades and has started repairs of the road. Officers said that they have a target of completing the road restoration before the monsoon sets in. Villagers have apprised the NHAI authorities that the ground beneath the road has loose soil and as such, any amount of road laying works would be superficial in nature and would not work.

NHAI is also undertaking the works to construct a retaining wall to prevent mud from sliding and this work is expected to be completed in another 20 to 25 days. These repair works notwithstanding, now there are fears of rain intensifying, causing more damage. "It will take 20 to 25 days for the retaining wall works to be completed and it is not advisable for heavy vehicles to move on the road," said H.P. Chandrappa, Assistant Executive Engineer, NHAI.

Virajpet MLA K.G. Bopaiah visited the spot last Friday and asked the NHAI officials to speed up the work. "The storm water drains constructed beside the road have collapsed and water is flowing on the road and as such, the road has caved in due to seepage. I have directed the National Highway officials to repair the stretch immediately and also identify an alternate route," he said.

Alternatively, the goods trucks from Mysuru can travel towards Hassan, Bisleghat, Gundya and reach Mangaluru. However, the fate of the trucks that have already landed in Madikeri is not known. If the condition worsens, they have to take the roundabout Somwarpet route to reach Hassan and Mangaluru.

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E- Tender Notice No. 13/MYS/2021 of 21.04.2021
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works :

Sl.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1.	Mysuru Division: Mysuru - Arsikere section-Through sleeper renewal of existing 52kg PSC sleeper of 1310 density with 60/52 PSC sleeper of 1660 density (Primary-44 km/secondary-75 km) from km. 0.800 to km.119.800 for a length of 119.00 (By PQRS/Manual/ISD) (Two-Packet).	Rs 14,22,63,478/-
2.	Hassan-Mangaluru: Repairs to steel girder bridges by replacement of Bent End/ Intermediate stiffeners of stee girder bridges between Yedakumari-Mangaluru section.	Rs. 95,31,750/-

Last date for submission of bids: upto 11:00 hrs. of 13.05.2021
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Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Mysuru

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Employment Notice No. CMP/06/Covid-19/GAZ/2021
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
South Western Railway, Mysuru Division proposes to engage full time Medical Practitioners (Specialist), GDMO for a period of 03 months or upto 30.06.2021, Staff Nurse and Pharmacists on contract basis for a period 03 months or upto 31.07.2021 whichever is earlier on Covid-19 account for Mysuru Division, South Western Railway.
1. No. of Vacancies: CMP (Specialist): 02 posts, CMP (GDMO) : 12 posts, Staff Nurse: 30 posts, Pharmacist: 02 posts.
2. Place at which service required: Covid Isolation Ward, Railway Hospital, Mysuru and Covid Coaches over Mysuru Division.
3. Venue and Date of Walk-In-Interview: Office of the Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Irwin Road, Mysuru. Date : 04.05.2021 (Tuesday) from 11.00 hrs onwards upto 17:00 hrs.
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Mysuru

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